

Pachkovsky, Alex

From: Simoni, Lesley E. <Lesley.E.Simoni@espn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 2:16 PM
To: Jud Testimony
Cc: ahornish@humanesociety.org
Subject: Testimony for 4/5 public hearing-- SUPPORT HB 6690 (court advocates for animals)

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Fox, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this as my testimony (for public hearing held on 4/5/13) in **SUPPORT of HB 6690**, AAC Court proceedings and the protection of animals.

I vote, and this issue is important to me. I have been volunteering for over 15 years at my local animal shelter, and it saddens me to know that animals truly have no voice right now. For example, the case that has been dragging on now with Alex Wullaert for admittedly killing a shelter dog he adopted named Desmond, is a case where an advocate for the animal would help. Desmond was the victim but it seems that he had no rights, and there is fear that a person with a violent past will get off with a slap on the wrist. We can't let this continue to happen any longer.

I support HB 6690 because:

- Research has established strong links between violent behaviors toward humans and violent behaviors toward animals.
- Law enforcement agencies must take violence toward animals seriously; prosecutions must be encouraged.
- Having court advocates for animals would be done at no cost by enlisting volunteer representation for animals from animal welfare groups, law students, and law firms.
- Teaching humans to behave with kindness and respect toward animals will help to build a more humane society.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let those without a voice be heard.

Regards,

Lesley Simoni
11 Manor Road
East Haven, CT 06512